(d) the number of cases which are related to revenue and the cases which are of criminal nature, respectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) At present 33,635 cases in Supreme Court, 343,41,040 cases in High Courts and 2,53,06,458 cases in Subordinate Courts are reported to be pending.

(c) No such data is maintained in the Department.

(d) As per the information available in the Department of Jusice, at present 5359 criminal cases in Supreme Court, 6,37,821 criminal cases in High Courts and 1,80,95,301 criminal cases are pending in Subordinate Courts.

Entry of foreign law firms

1287. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court bar Association and the All India Bar Association have urged Government not to allow entry of foreign Law firms;

(b) the difficulty his Ministry foresee in there is a reciprocal arrangement;

(c) whether before mooting this idea his ministry has held any consultations with the Bar Council of India, SCBA, All-India bar Association, Bar Association of India and other bodies of legal profession; and

(d) if so, their response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) to (d) Bar Council of India, Supreme Court Bar Association and others have opposed entry of foreign lawyers including law firms.

Institutionalization of arbitration

1288. SHRI RAJIV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to institutionalize arbitration by involving top members of bar and bench;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government believe this action would speed up the arbitration process;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the other steps being contemplated by Government to speed up arbitration?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. The Departmental Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law & Justice which examined the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2003 introduced in Rajya Sabha on 22nd December, 2003 in its Ninth Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 4th August, 2005 recommended a legislation incorporating provisions relating to institutionalized arbitration. The Committee felt that institutionalised arbitration would end the alleged enethical practice followed by some institutions as at present. This will also bring in accountability of arbitrators and committed people to conclude the arbitration proceedings in a time bound manner failing which there could be penalty for delay in settlement of disputes.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Institutionalised arbitration will bring in fully dedicated panel of lawyers and arbitrators devoting full time for arbitration proceedings. It will also considerably reduce delay in settlement of disputes occurring at present due to availability of arbitrators and arbitration lawyers only on a part time basis. The Government considers that mediation, conciliation, fast tract courts, lok adalats, etc., would also pave way for early resolution of disputes besides institutionalized arbitration proceedings.

Delimitation Commission

1289. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delimitation Commission has completed its work, on Lok Sabha/Legislative Assemblies Constituencies; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Delimitation Commission has published its final orders demarcating the Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies in respect of States of Goa, Mizoram, Kerala and Tripura and Union territory of Pondicherry in the Gazette of India and the Official Gazette of States